

*Westminster
Baptist
Church*

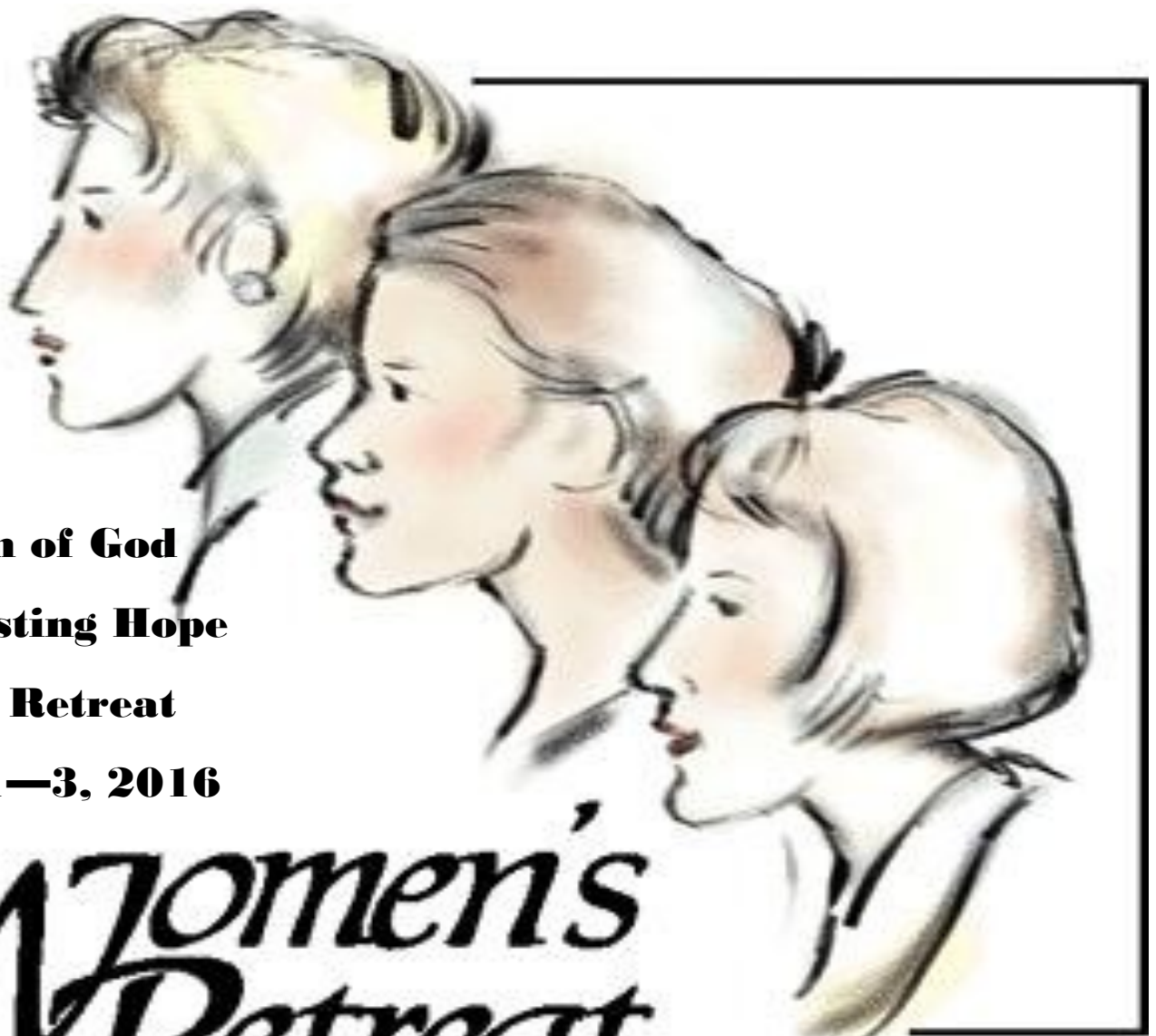
THE WITNESS

April - May 2016

Volume 44 Issue 2

**Women of God
Everlasting Hope
Spring Retreat
April 1—3, 2016**

*Women's
Retreat*





Dear Westminster Baptist Church Family,

Thanks for all of the prayers, love and encouragement over the last twenty three months for our family. During these last two years, our house in Westminster has been listed for over 75% or eighteen months without being sold. On Friday, February 12th, we signed on the dotted line to close on it. Although we feel relief in the final sale, we also feel sadness for having to say goodbye to the Westminster Baptist Church family again.

As a family, we felt such care and love by so many of you, especially over the last six to seven months when we needed to move back to our house and live in Carroll County, as we awaited the next calling for our family in ministry.

Although many of you cared and prayed for us, we especially want to thank Pastor Larry for being a reference for us with our new church in State College, PA. Also, we can thank Pastor Vernon for helping Nathan and Josh feel welcome in the Youth Group while we were back. Finally, thanks to Jess Steen and Tommy Navarro for helping us load the moving truck to move. To God be the Glory!

Blessings in Christ,

The Grella's—Chris, Angie, Nathan and Josh

Thank You!

I want to thank you for the lovely reception and opportunity to visit with so many of you before my retirement. I have come to know and love the church family at Westminster Baptist Church as brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

The flowers were beautiful and I especially enjoyed them during the snowy weather.

Rick and I look forward to visiting Sight and Sound to include some time away in Lancaster. Your gift makes that possible and we appreciate it so much.

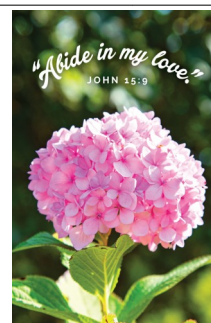
May God richly bless each of you and the ministries of WBC.

*Love in Christ,
Dru*



We collected, **\$486.44** for Alpha Pregnancy Center. Thank you for your generosity!

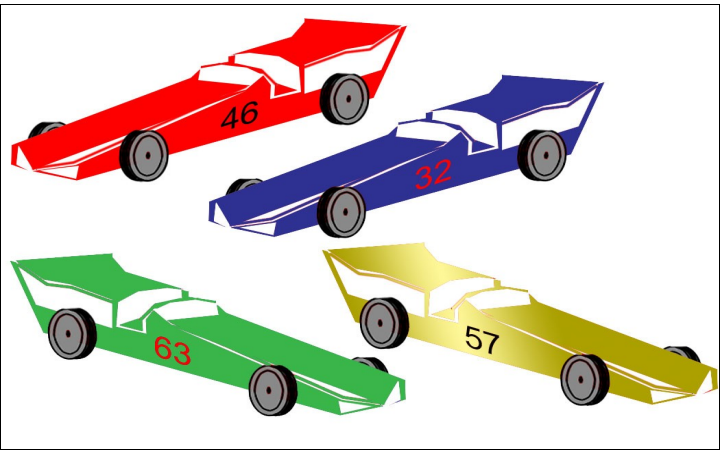
Our church gave **\$63,682.30** to the Cooperative Program for the Mid-Atlantic Baptist Network in 2015. Praise God for the faithful members who answered God's call to give.



*"Hide in my love,"
JOHN 15:9*

Phil and I send our sincere thanks to all who have kept Phil in prayer during his latest illness and during my mother's (Arlene) hospital stay. It is comforting to know that regardless of the outcome, we know that God is answering prayer.

Susan & Phil Gruentzel



The Awana Grand Prix is coming on April 27th at 7:00pm in the Multipurpose Room at Westminster Baptist Church. It is always a fun-filled evening as the children decorate a car and then race it against fellow clubbers. There are participation awards for all and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies for best design and speed. The best reward is the fun had by all. We welcome anyone who wants to come and join in the fun. Weigh-in for the clubbers cars is from 6:00pm to 6:45pm so we can start promptly at 7:00pm and we will be finished by 8:30pm. All cars must be weighed and checked to see that they fit on the track. Come and experience a fun evening and see if Awana is a good fit for your child. We also welcome any adult who would like to find out more about Awana and help with this awesome ministry.

Commander Jim Kirk

Children's Sunday School—Babies through 5th grade



On February 14th, our children, and their parents and teachers were asked to bring baskets, snacks, drinks and books for First Responders in our neighborhood. We wanted to thank them for all they do to make us safe. Four baskets were made and delivered and greatly appreciated by those who received them. This was a Gospel Project activity. Thanks to all who helped!





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><i>Signs of Spring</i></p>				<p>1</p> <p>10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry</p> <p>6:30pm Young Adult Life Group</p> <p>WOG Retreat, April 1-3</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>WOMEN'S Retreat</i></p>
<p>3 Lord's Supper</p> <p>8:30am Traditional</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am MOSIAC</p> <p>6:00pm Sanct. Singers</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00pm Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>6 6:00pm Children's Choir</p> <p>6:30pm Youth</p> <p>6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Mission</p>	<p>7 9:30am WOG Bible Study</p> <p>12 pm SS Luncheon (Bullocks)</p> <p>7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 pm New Life for Girls</p>	<p>9 Marriage Conference</p> <p>9:00 am—3:00 p.m., Crosswind Church</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:30am Traditional</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School</p> <p>10:45am BP Screening</p> <p>11:00am MOSIAC</p> <p>6:00pm Sanctuary Singers</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team</p>	<p>12 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast</p> <p>Seniors' Breakfast</p>	<p>13 6:00pm Children's Choir</p> <p>6:30pm Youth</p> <p>6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Mission Friends</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30am WOG Bible Study</p> <p>7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry</p> <p>6:30pm Young Adult Life Group</p>	<p>16 Westminster Rescue Mission "In His Love" Tea 10:30</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:30am Traditional</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am MOSIAC</p> <p>6:00pm Sanctuary Singers</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Women on Mission</p> <p>7:00pm Admin Team Meeting</p>	<p>20 6:00pm Children's Choir</p> <p>6:30pm Youth</p> <p>6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Mission Friends</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am WOG Bible Study</p> <p>7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6-9 pm WOG Setup (MP)</p>	<p>23 9am-12:00 pm WOG Event (MP)</p>
<p>24</p> <p>8:30am Traditional</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am MOSIAC</p> <p>6:00pm Sanct. Singers</p> <p>7:00pm TIPS</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Heart-to-Heart Ministry</p> <p>7:00 pm Ministry Team Mtg.</p>	<p>27 6:00pm Children's Choir</p> <p>6:30pm Youth</p> <p>6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Mission Friends</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am WOG Bible Study</p> <p>7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10 am- 1pm WISE Classes</p>



Westminster Rescue Mission

LADIES' AUXILIARY IS SPONSORING

"In His Love" Tea

SATURDAY APRIL 16, 2016 AT 10:30 AM

Westminster Baptist Church
354 Crest Lane (off Hook Rd.), Westminster, MD

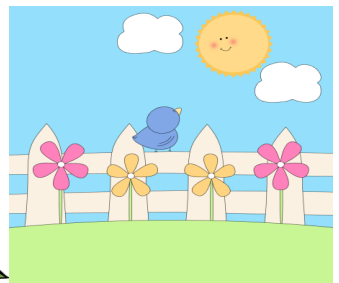
Featuring:

- Tea Sandwiches, Scones, Salad, Pastries & Specialty Teas.
- Guest Speaker - Maryland Delegate Susan Krebs
- Silent Auction

Tickets \$20.00 or Sponsor a table of 8 for \$160.00.

Contact Beverly Maring at
410 848-8149 or maring2@verizon.net
Make checks payable to WRM Ladies Auxiliary
C/O 500 Clear Ridge Rd. Union Bridge, MD. 21791

Come for a great time of fun and food while supporting Westminster Rescue Mission.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	2 	3 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	4 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	5 9:30am WOG Bible Study Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon 7pm 318 Men's BS	6 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry 6:30PM Young Adult Life Group	7	
8  8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45 am BP Screening Parent/Infant Dedication 11:00am MOSIAC 6:00pm Sanc Singers	9 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	10 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast	11 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	12 9:30am WOG Bible Study 7pm 318 Men's BS	13 7:00 pm New Life for Girls	14 	
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Zootopia and the Gospel of Reconciliation



My family has always been major cinephiles. From a very young age going to the movie theatre with my parents and siblings has been a common occurrence. Prior to this past Friday that tradition had not been passed down to my own children. We had just never gotten around to taking the kids out to the theatre. This past weekend my parents were visiting from Illinois and they treated the four of us to our first family movie. Before choosing to take my young children to a movie I thoroughly researched the films in theatres in order that I could best help my children form a worldview. We ended up going to Gettysburg to see the new Disney animated film Zootopia. Zootopia was fantastic and the kids thoroughly enjoyed it, but what impressed me most about Zootopia was its thoughtful and convicting message. Zootopia may not be a "Christian" movie, however, it demonstrates a prominent element of the Gospel. Perhaps greater than any "Christian" movie I have ever seen.

Before exploring the profoundly positive lessons of Zootopia, I would like to note that there are a small handful of ways that Zootopia conflicts with our Christian worldview, and note a few warnings for parents of young children. Zootopia is rated PG for a reason as several scenes imply violence. Children's films have a tendency to over simplify good versus evil, but that is not even remotely the case in Zootopia. In Zootopia racism is explored even in its most subtle forms and even the films greatest heroes are at times guilty of heinous prejudice. Zootopia essentially echoes the song from a far more vulgar play, "Everybody's a Little Racist." Zootopia shows us how hurtful even subtle stereotypes can be and it inspires viewers to be introspective and try to be part of the solution. All the while Zootopia is constantly hopeful that even the very worst of us can change, while it demonstrates how mixed motivations are involved in all of our moral decisions.

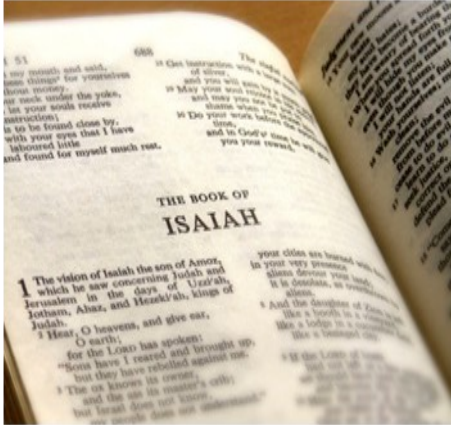
The aspirations of Zootopia will never be fully seen in human society, and to a significant extent Zootopia even admits that fact. There is hope that the makers of Zootopia may not be aware of themselves. The dream of reconciliation and tolerance will be fully seen in Christ's church in the new heaven and new earth. Christ's kingdom makes no value distinctions between genders, races, languages, economic classes, or cultures. All come to the table through Christ's bloodshed in their place alone. Because of Christ's death people of all forms and backgrounds become one family, as the movie's white upper class American male becomes more family with an impoverished African woman than he is with his own flesh and blood.

Zootopia was a brilliant and inspirational film. While Zootopia never claims to be a "Christian" movie, it does not even mention Christ at all. It is far better at instilling a Christian worldview than many recent films targeted at the Christian community. I highly encourage every parent seeking to raise children to serve the Lord to take your whole family to Zootopia and take time to discuss how we see Jesus in its dream of a tolerant world.

Pastor Tony

Bible Study of Isaiah

Our Sisters in Scripture Bible study continues: **“Be Comforted - A Study of Isaiah”**



The book of Isaiah contains one of the clearest expressions of the gospel in all the Old Testament. It provides us with the most comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus Christ, and includes the full scope of His life: the announcement of His coming; His virgin birth; His proclamation of the good news; His sacrificial death; and His return to claim His own. The book stands as a testament of hope in the Lord, the One who saves His people from themselves.

Nancy Rictor will continue our study of Isaiah on Thursday mornings beginning on April 14 from 9:30-11:00am in room 108. Don't hesitate to join us, even if you missed the fall and winter studies. While we should be concluding in May, there is much to learn in these final chapters. This is a lecture format followed by

group discussion. (No video or lesson book is used. Handouts are provided.) There is no cost. We invite you to learn with us!

Women's Prayer Group



I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees, we're on our knees (Hillsong United - Hosanna Lyrics)

Women of Grace invites you to join our prayer group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 10:00 - 11:30 am at Ninette LeGates' home. Her address is 663 Rising Dr. in Westminster. For more information, please contact Ninette at 410 848-1636. Join us as we pray for revival in our hearts, church, and community.



" See next edition of The Witness for stories about first responders and our efforts to support them."

Forgiveness is Freedom

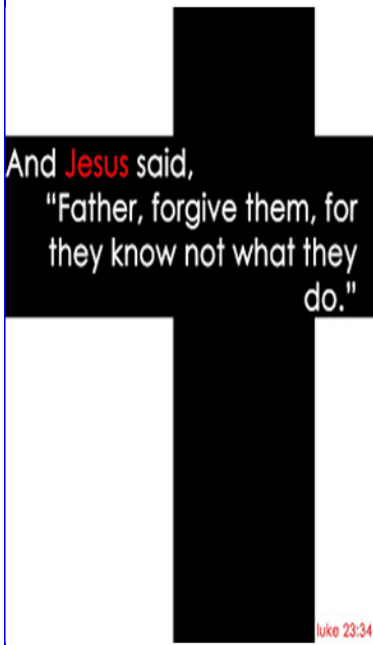
"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1NIV

Several women in our church had the privilege of attending the March 2016 Women's Conference at Hanover First Church of God. Sylane Mack spoke eloquently about the fullness of freedom that is found in forgiveness. Her story is heartrending, yet she stands today a woman of grace, full of passion for her Lord and Savior. Her life is a reflection of her victory in Jesus.

Driving home that first evening of the conference, my heart was so heavy it hurt after hearing the horrendous accounts of Sylane's childhood abuse at the hands of her immediate family. I'm sure every woman at the conference experienced pain and sadness for the child whose innocence was stolen from her. We returned the following day to hear the rest of the story – a powerful, uplifting testimony of the incredible love of Jesus that saved her, healed her, and set her free.

Sylane's redemption is grounded in biblical truth. She shared Scripture verses, one after the other that sustained her through her ordeal, taught her how to forgive, and continue to transform her. God's Word revealed to her that real forgiveness is possible. She learned how to live out forgiveness, day by day... moment by moment. Sylane was able to forgive herself, and most importantly, she chose to live in the freedom of forgiveness.

According to Jesus, forgiveness is not optional if we are to live our lives as children of God. We must forgive if God is to forgive us (Mark 11:25-26). Often times, we wait for the ones who hurt us to admit their wrongdoing, but that was not Christ's example. As He suffered on the cross, we have no accounts of His persecutors shouting apologies before Jesus lifted His voice to heaven, asking His Father to forgive them because they had no idea that they were killing the Son of God (Luke 23:34). Forgiveness means we give up our "right" to an apology or revenge.



And Jesus said,
"Father, forgive them, for
they know not what they
do."

Forgiving is not about denying what was done to us or forgetting the hurt. It is an intentional act to yield to and embrace the power of God's love to forgive as the Lord forgave us (Colossians 3:13). Forgiveness unburdens our hearts, freeing us to love others as we love ourselves.

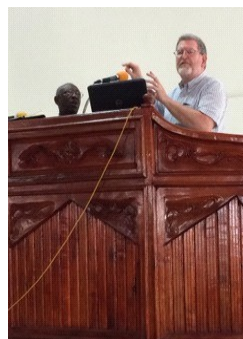
If you'd like to learn more about Sylane's story, her life-changing autobiography entitled "*Convinced!*" recounts her journey from brokenness to healing through the transforming power of God. Her ministry, *Transformed by Grace, Inc.* (www.transformedbygrace.org), shares biblical truths of the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. She carries out this mission through her conference speaking and counseling ministries.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Submitted by Cindy Bryson



A special thank you to all of you at WBC for your prayers and financial support allowing Pastor Larry and myself to travel back to Macaty, Haiti in March. This was the 4th year in a row for me to teach at the Pastor's Conference and the 2nd year for Pastor Larry. I taught through 1 & 2 Timothy, and Pastor Larry gave instructions for Biblical Interpretation.



After arriving on Friday, we helped distribute new Bibles to over a dozen new converts in a nearby town. On Sunday, with a hard rain coming down, we traveled to Macaty for services. Pastor Larry sang *Great is Thy Faithfulness* and I preached on the importance of prayer. After the service, we met with church and community leaders to discuss future plans/projects for their community. We discovered in our conversations that there are at least 2000 people living in Macaty. Many are women who are widowed, many men need work, and most children are not getting a proper education. They were very grateful for the dresses and school supplies that we provided. Monday-Thursday, we taught morning and afternoon sessions at the Pastors' Conference. Local flooding prevented some from attending, but the ones who came were grateful.

On Friday, we traveled back to Macaty to pray with the church. We walked slowly through the village and made several home visits. We prayed and sang hymns over the people as we prayed against the darkness and oppression of voodoo. Then we gathered in a circle inside the church to pray together. We had meaningful conversations, shared names and heard some amazing testimonies of what God has done in the lives of these Haitians. They shared how much it means to them that we keep coming back.

Trust and friendships are getting deeper which will open up many doors for us in the future years ahead. Lord willing, in November, I will be traveling back and taking a few of our musicians with me. We are planning on teaching a music workshop with some local music teachers. We will be sharing the Gospel as we learn music theory. I also plan on doing some deacon and evangelism training with Pastor Nevel and his church leaders. The harvest is ripe in Haiti. The Light of Jesus and His Church must penetrate the darkness to free the souls of these dear people I have grown to love. Every time I go, it is harder to adjust to our culture when I return.

The petty things that bother so many here in the US church, quickly fades in the big picture of what God has called us to do as we Go to the nations. The hearts of worshipers that are truly dependent on God are so different when compared to the shallowness of a self-absorbed, "meet all of my needs" mentality that we suffer from here at home. Never once did I hear a complaint about serving. No excuse was given when a prayer service was held for hours. The people wanted to be there, they wanted to serve and pray. May God return us to having our eyes fixed on Him, our knees bent in prayer, and our hearts in alignment with God's own heart.

Pastor Glen



As I write this newsletter article I am preparing for a multi-church Good Friday Service and a wonderful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter Sunday morning. Today is a beautiful spring-like day, the sun is shining, and just as the seasons are moving from the dead of winter to the new life of spring, so we celebrate our new life in Jesus Christ. If your life in Christ has become a little routine, a little

dull, there's no better time than right now to pray for a reinvigorated life. Just recently a church member mentioned to me that it had been her prayer last year to love Christ more than ever. At the same time she recommitted herself to regular reading of the Scriptures. She discovered over the months of praying for a greater love for the Lord, and reading God's Word, that He did it! She commented, that though she did not actually plan it this way, it was that regular reading of God's word that led to the answer of her prayer for a greater love of Jesus! She then commented, "Isn't it funny how God does that?"

My prayer for each of us here at Westminster Baptist Church is precisely that - that the Lord may be our first love, and that as a result our lives will be totally transformed. As I preached this past Palm Sunday, may we see this world through the eyes of Jesus, and see a lost world in need of a Savior. May the world know that we are Christians by our love for Jesus, our love for one another, our love for his Word, and our love for the lost.

Will you join me and pray that prayer in this Easter season and beyond?

Also let me share with you our upcoming sermon plans. After Easter, there is one more sermon in my series of sermons on the I AM's of Jesus - the one Sunday this winter we had to cancel because of snow, shoved my sermon schedule back by one week. As a follow-up to that series that clearly identifies Jesus with the great I AM of the Old Testament, we will be studying the book of Colossians. This short book by the apostle Paul emphasizes the supremacy of Christ in all things, and how that practically affects our lives. I look forward to sharing that series of messages with you all! May God be at work in your lives and May God bless you all.

"He who has the Son has life..." 1Jo 5:12

Pastor Larry

First Responders Ministry



Several of you have taken on the challenge to minister to first responders throughout this year. If you have done so and have targeted a particular firehouse or police station, please email Pastor Larry lawrencesteen@comcast.net

and give a quick update of what you've been doing. I would like to have a list of all who have volunteered to serve in this way, and to get together and meet for a time of prayer and testimony in the near future.

Westminster Baptist Church

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